

WYCOMBE OUT OF WINNING RHYTHM

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE Wanderers lost their winning rhythm at Plough Lane this afternoon when they went down 2-0 to Wimbledon. The Wycombe forwards could make little headway and Wimbledon, who pressed for most of the first half were very unlucky not to go ahead earlier.

Wimbledon: Kelly; J. Martin, Rudge; Ardrey, Law, Murphy; Kinchington, B. Martin, Reynolds, Moore, Warnes.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Ashby, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Blair, James, Holmes, Hyde.

Referee: D. D. Maitland.

The strong Wimbledon defence easily resisted the early raids from a confident Wycombe attack in which the clever little Blair frequently sparkled.

Both defences dominated and it took minutes before Wimbledon's Brian Martin fired in the first shot of the game.

When Wimbledon began a series of quick attacks through the centre they looked the more dangerous side. The giant centre forward Reynolds was a real worry to Wycombe.

WYCOMBE MISTAKES

Lively Wimbledon were busting the Wycombe defence into making many mistakes. Martin and Reynolds split the Wycombe defence with a fast right wing movement but Beck calmly chested the ball down into Brown's arms.

Wimbledon were fortunate when James and Holmes worked an opening for Blair. The inside right tore through but goalkeeper Kelly deflected his

shot for a corner. This was a rare Wycombe attack.

England pivot Roy Law blotted James out of the game and Holmes was very ineffective. The Wycombe goal came under siege towards the interval and Martin's centre hit a goal-post with Brown again beaten.

Half-time: Wimbledon 0. Wycombe Wanderers 0.

Wimbledon's long overdue goal came straight from the restart. Brown parried a Kinchington header but REYNOLDS tapped a simple goal as the ball ran loose.

Wycombe missed an easy equalising chance when Holmes was too slow to shoot after wing half Ashby had shrugged off two tackles in a dash down the centre.

The Wimbledon forwards, deceptively quiet for a spell, struck again. Running onto Martin's centre, REYNOLDS headed a good goal.

In the closing minutes James put in Wycombe's best effort—a header from Len Worley's corner which just cleared the bar.

RESULT:

WIMBLEDON 2
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0

WYCOMBE WING SKILL WASTED

Wimbledon 2 Wycombe W 0

LEN WORLEY, the former England international, and 17-year-old starlet Stephen Hyde had a frustrating time on the Wycombe wings at Plough Lane. Time and again this talented and dangerous pair cut through the strong home defence to lay on goal-scoring passes for their inside forward trio. These efforts were in vain, for Wycombe lacked the forwards with ability to turn chances into goals.

The player capable of this was, unfortunately for Wycombe, playing on the opposite side. He was Wimbledon centre forward Eddie Reynolds, who scored both the home goals. But for Ken Brown, in the Wycombe goal, Wimbledon would have won by a far greater margin.

Brown, both brilliant and lucky, robbed the dangerous Reynolds of a well-deserved hat-trick.

Wimbledon dominated the first half from start to finish but found Brown impossible to beat. Reynolds scored straight after the interval, and made victory safe with a brilliant header after 70 minutes.

Between his goals, Wycombe attacked throughout, but, for all the brilliant form of Warley and Hyde, they are unable to score.